

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1115

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mike Munkel of the  
University of Tennessee at Martin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of  
the untimely passing of Mike Munkel of Martin; and

WHEREAS, Mike Munkel was a greatly beloved figure at the University of Tennessee at  
Martin who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for so many of his colleagues and  
U.T.M. students in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mike Munkel served the University of Tennessee at Martin community with  
a deep generosity and boundless compassion; and

WHEREAS, as the longtime manager of dining services for the University of Tennessee  
at Martin, Mike Munkel had earned the respect of students, faculty, and staff alike for the  
exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Munkel received a Bachelor of Science degree from Southwestern  
Minnesota State University before joining the University of Tennessee at Martin staff as the  
Sodexo Dining Services general manager; and

WHEREAS, Mike Munkel was truly community-minded, a man who determinedly sought  
to ease the burdens of others through his peerless commitment to public service; and

WHEREAS, Mike Munkel was honored in 2003 by the Tennessee Higher Education  
Commission for his outstanding community service, as one of ten persons who received the  
Harold Love Community Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Mike Munkel, for more than ten years, volunteered his time and talents to  
Camp Celebration, a recreational camp for mentally challenged children, and led efforts in  
recent years to fill Christmas stockings and Easter baskets for underprivileged children; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Munkel was recognized for his dedicated service to campus and community with the Sodexo Service Spirit Award for Customer Satisfaction, for which he was chosen from among 10,000 eligible Sodexo employees across North America; and

WHEREAS, a caring and generous man, Mike Munkel said of himself in a 2003 interview, "I know I am blessed with my circumstances in life...anything I can do to make another person's life easier just makes me feel a little more fulfilled"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his efforts to provide the students of the University of Tennessee at Martin with a cafeteria that felt like a home away from home, Mike Munkel also found time to visit local primary schools to teach students the importance of kitchen safety; and

WHEREAS, Mike Munkel leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mike Munkel, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his considerable abilities as a professional, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mike Munkel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.